

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /093 W
-----000337 231533Z /50

P 222230Z FEB 78

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1259
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIRRTY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0057
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT,CA
SUBJECT: PROVOCATION OR PROTOCOL?

REF: QUEBEC 470 AND DAKAR 8460

1. LE DEVOIR OF FEBRUARY 21 CARRIED REPORT THAT CANADIAN
MINISTER OF EXTAFF JAMIESON, IN SURPRISE MOVE, "REFUSED
PERMISSION," FOR QUEBEC TO OPEN DELEGATION GENERAL IN DAKAR.
INSTEAD, JAMIESON IS SAID TO HAVE OFFERED ALLOW QUEBEC TO
OPEN AN "OFFICE" WITHIN THE CANADIAN EMBASSY. INFORMED SOURCES
IN OTTAWA ARE QUOTED BY LE DEVOIR AS SAYING MOVE WAS DELIBERATE
RESPONSE BY OTTAWA TO INCREASINGLY AUTONOMIST TURN QUEBEC
IS GIVING ITS "FOREIGN POLICY." SINCE PQ APPEARS TO HAVE
ADOPTED NEW STRATEGY, OTTAWA, HAS RIGHT TO MODIFY HER OWN TACTICS,
SOURCE REASONED.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT JAMIESON'S INITIATIVE CAUGHT QUEBECOIS
BY SURPRISE. ONE EMBARRASSED QUEBECOIS OFFICIAL ADMITTED
PRIVATELY TO ME THAT THEY HAD ASSUMED MATTER WAS SETTLED AND
GOC PERMISSION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AFTER RITUAL PERIOD OF
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HEEL DRAGGING. HE DID NOT KNOW, OR WOULD NOT REVEAL, WHAT
RESPONSE, IF ANY, GOQ WILL MAKE.

3. COMMENT: SOME OBSERVERS IN QUEBEC ARE SPECULATING THAT
SUDDEN MOVE BY GOC MAY BE PART OF STRATEGY TO PROVOKE QUEBECOIS PRIOR
TO FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THEY REASON THAT TRUDEAU NEEDS
HEATED NATIONAL UNITY ISSUES TO DISTRACTVOTERS FROM ECONOMIC

PROBLEMS . SINCE LEVESQUE'S PRESENT TACTIC IS TO ATTEMPT DE-
PRIVE LIBERALS OF ELECTORAL ADVANTAGE BY AVOIDING CONTROVERSY,
TRUDEAU HAS DECIDED STIR THINGS UP. SAME SPECULATORS ALSO
CLAIM SEE PM'S FINE MACHIAVELLIAN HAND IN OUELLET'S PROVOCA-
TIVE ATTACK ON LEVESQUE DURING RECENT ECONOMIC CONFERENCE
AS WELL AS IN RECENT REQUEST MADE BY OTTAWA TO FRENCH FOR
"CLARIFICATION" OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC. MCNAMARA

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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